

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Office Action Rejections Summary

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2001/0056499 of Shirai et al. ("Shirai").

Status of Claims

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 10-13 have been amended to improve the grammar of preexisting claim limitations. Claims have not been amended to overcome anything related to the prior art. The amended claims are supported by the specification. Claims 20 and 21 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shirai. In particular, the Office Action states:

As per claims 1 and 2, Shirai teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a method for automatically selecting and assigning non-overlapping IP addresses [col. 1, paragraph 1] comprising the steps of:

setting an internal address space to a default private IP address space [col. 1, paragraph 1; col. 3, paragraphs 36-37]

...

As per claims 6-9, since they are system claims of claims 1 and 3-5, they are rejected for the same basis as claims 1 and 3-5 above.

As per claim 10-13, since they are computer program claims of claims 1 and 3-5, they are rejected for the same basis as claims 1 and 3-5 above.

As per claims 14-19, since they are apparatus claims of claims 1-5, they are rejected for the same basis as claims 1-5 above.

(Office Action, 2/1/05, pp. 2-4).

However, applicants assert that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Shirai under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). In contrast to the Examiner's assertion, Shirai is completely silent about assigning private IP addresses. Shirai is focused on and discloses assigning *public* IP addresses connected directly to the Internet, which consists of a network address and a host address. Shirai discloses:

A method for automatically deciding an Internet address of a device newly connected to a network is provided. (Abstract Paragraph) (Emphasis added)

IP address is the address with which the device can be identified on the Internet. The IP address includes a network address and a host address. The network address is for identifying the LAN cable to which the device is connected. The host address is for identifying each device connected to the same LAN cable. Thus, all the devices connected to same LAN cable must have same network address. (Paragraph 0031) (Emphasis added)

Shirai has no discussion about private IP addresses. In contrast, claim 1 recites several limitations with regards to private IP addresses. Therefore, Shirai does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 1. As such, claim 1 as amended, is not anticipated by Shirai under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Given that claims 2-5 depend from and include the limitations of claim 1, applicants submit that claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Shirai under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

The Shirai reference qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). As such applicants reserve the right to swear behind the effective prior art date of this reference.

Likewise, claims 6-21 recite one or more limitations with regards to private IP addresses. Therefore, Shirai does not disclose each and every limitation of any of those claims. As such, claims 6-21 are also not anticipated by Shirai under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

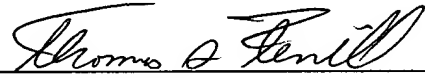
In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 5-2, 2005

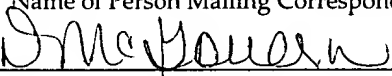

Thomas Ferrill
Registration No. 42,532

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

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